

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 7-13 and 15-24 are pending in the application. Claim 7 has been amended to include claim 14, now cancelled, and to better define the claimed invention. Claims 16-24 have been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of claims 7, 9, and 11-15 as being anticipated by *Cole* (U.S. Patent No. 5,622,761) is believed overcome in view of the above amendments.

In particular, independent claim 7 now additionally recites that "the other of said major surfaces is free of adhesive material." *Cole* fails to teach or disclose the invention of amended claim 7 because the reference teaches arrangement of adhesive on both major surfaces of the product which is a double-sided adhesive tape or note. *See*, for example, FIGs. 4A and FIG. 5; column 2, lines 36-38; and the Abstract of *Cole*. Thus, *Cole* does not anticipate amended claim 7. The reference is not modifiable to include the claimed invention because doing so would change the principle of operation of the reference. *See MPEP*, section 2443.02.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 7 is patentable over *Cole*. Claims 9, 11-13, and 15 depend from claim 7, and are considered patentable at least for the reason advanced with respect to amended claim 7.

The 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of claims 7, 11, 13, and 15 as being anticipated by *Haines* (U.S. Patent No. 4,312,523) is also believed overcome in view of the above amendments.

In particular, independent claim 7 now additionally recites the limitations of claim 14 which

is not rejected as being anticipated by *Haines*. Thus, *Haines* does not anticipate amended claim 7. The reference is not modifiable to include the claimed invention for lack of an adequate suggestion or motivation in the art.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 7 is patentable over *Haines*. Claims 11, 13 and 15 depend from claim 7, and are considered patentable at least for the reason advanced with respect to amended claim 7.

The 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 8 and 10 as being obvious over *Cole* is believed overcome in view of the amendments made to claim 7, as argued above.

New claims 16-17 depend from claim 7, and are considered patentable at least for the reason advanced with respect to amended claim 7. In addition, *Cole* fails to disclose, teach or suggest the limitation of claim 17 that “the first adhesive region extends up to the adjacent edge of said sheet material.” In *Cole*, the first adhesive region (e.g., element 12 in FIG. 5) is spaced from the adjacent edge.

New independent claim 18 is patentable over the applied references because the references singly or in combination fail to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention. In particular, *Cole* fails to disclose or suggest that “the other of said major surfaces is free of adhesive material” whereas *Haines* does not teach or suggest that “a width of said first area, as measured in said direction, is smaller than the width of said second area.”

New claims 19-21 depend from claim 18, and are considered patentable at least for the reason advanced with respect to claim 18.

New independent claim 22 is patentable over the applied references because the references singly or in combination fail to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention. In particular, *Cole* fails to disclose or suggest that “the other of said major surfaces is free of adhesive material”

whereas *Haines* does not teach or suggest the claimed third adhesive region.

New claims 23-24 depend from claim 22, and are considered patentable at least for the reason advanced with respect to claim 22.

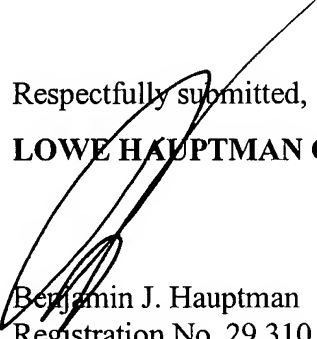
Each of the Examiner's rejections has been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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